

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 7, and 13, 14, and 16-18, and cancel claims 3, 9, and 15, without any prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants also amend claims 4 and 10 to correct dependencies. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14, and 16-18 remain currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory; and rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,185,860 to Wu ("Wu").¹

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory. The Examiner alleges that "[c]laims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because a computer program and a computer program code are non-statutory subject matter." (Office Action at 2.) Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims 13, 14, and 16-18 to recite "a computer-readable medium" to ensure proper recitation of statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection of claims 13, 14, and 16-18. Because claim 15 has been canceled, the Section 101 rejection of claim 15 is moot.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu. Because claims 3, 9, and 15 have been canceled, the Section 102 rejection of claims 3, 9, and 15 is moot.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Further, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a combination including, for example, “a comparing unit configured to compare the interface identification information converted by using the one way function which is received from another mode, with interface identification information as converted by the function conversion unit.” Wu fails to disclose at least these features of amended claim 1.

Wu discloses “a flow chart of the process of adding a node to the node list” by an application module “addnode block 410” in “computer system 100.” See Wu, column 9, lines 4-5, Figs. 5 & 15. In Fig. 15, “after entry, block 1502 performs a hash operation on the IP address to create a pointer into the node list.

Block 1504 then allocates memory for a node record, and block 1506 stores the data available for the node into the node record at the location pointed to by the hashed IP address." Wu, column 9, lines 5-11, emphasis added. That is, Wu merely discloses that addnode block 410 converts the IP address of another node in order to obtain an address on a memory space in computer system 100 in which the data of the another node is to be stored. However, Wu's mere teaching of using a hashed value as a pointer to the node record does not constitute "a comparing unit configured to compare the interface identification information converted by using the one way function which is received from another node, with interface identification information as converted by the function conversion unit," as recited by amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

Further, Wu discloses that "when the process-ping module queries the node, it determines the state of the node at the present time. This state is compared, in block 806, with the state of the node as it was known previously in the database. If that state has changed, block 806 transfers to block 808 to store the new state in the database," Wu, column 6, line 67-column 7, line 5. However, Wu's mere teaching of comparing state information of the same node during different time (present time vs. previous time) does not constitute "a comparing unit configured to compare the interface identification information converted by using the one way function which is received from another node, with interface

identification information as converted by the function conversion unit," as recited by amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

In fact, Wu does not disclose the concept of comparing "to compare the interface identification information converted by using the one way function which is received from another node," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). Further, although Wu discloses that "Block 604 then initializes the database used to permanently store the nodes, and loads node list from existing entries in the database" (Wu, column 5, lines 58-60), Wu fails to even mention "to store a node information containing a name of a node, a network identification information, a prefix indicating a position on the network, and an interface identification information of a node, for each node," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, Wu fails to disclose all claim elements of amended claim 1. Wu thus cannot anticipate amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of amended claim 1. Because claims 2 and 4-6 depend from claim 1, Applicants also request withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 2 and 4-6 for at least the same reasons stated above.

Further, amended independent claims 7 and 13, while of different scope, include similar recitations to those of amended claim 1. Amended claims 7 and 13 are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with

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respect to amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 7 and 13, and of claims 8 and 10-12, which depend from claim 7, and claims 14 and 16-18, which depend from claim 13.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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